

Some time ago a rumor was in circulation here that the China Merchants S. S. Co. had made an offer to purchase the Hongkong, Canton and Swatow Steamship Co. Of course it was only a rumor, and no offer reached the River Steamer Company here. It appears, however, that the three Companies up North, who are still believed to be carrying on negotiations for the restoration of the Poot, have had such a proposal placed before them. Naturally the friendly relations of these three rival companies must be revived before any such combination to purchase the Canton Steamship Company could become possible. The Agents of the China Navigation Co. are credited in Shanghai with the proposal, and the fact that all three Northern Companies—Butterfield and Swire's, Jardine's, and the China Merchants—were brought into the big proposal, makes the large scheme more practicable than it would otherwise be. The harmonious agreement of the three great rivals, however, must precede any further action.

Four thousand eight hundred piculs of Yunnan copper have been taken down by steamers from Ichang.

The command of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps will shortly become vacant. Major Morrison being about to leave for a holiday of some months.

The Universal Providers of Shanghai, the Hall & Holt Co-operative Co., Ltd., have absorbed the business of Messrs. Cotton and Rawlinson, whose store is now closed.

A REPORT is current that the wreck of the *Holmes Eden* sank in deep water during the recent bad weather. Another junk had been salvaged from the wreck arrived in Shanghai on Thursday night.

A PRIVATE letter from Chinkiang says that it is unusually quiet at that port, but there is a strong opinion that the quiet would not continue long if the gunboats were to leave, and it is hoped that the experiment will not be made.

We learn from the *Peking Gazette* of 4th July that Sung-shan, a Manchou, lately Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, has been appointed Governor of Kweichow. He is a native of Szechuan by King Chao-yuan, lately Taoist of Shanghai.

Yesterday morning, says the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 26th instant, between 7 and 8 o'clock, a number of vessels, with a gross tonnage of something like 15,000 tons, crossed the Woosung Bar. Inwards. Such an amount of tonnage crossing in so short a time is probably unique in the history of Shanghai.

It is reported that H.E. Shin Kit Ding, Acting-Governor of Formosa, went on a tour of inspection on the 26th and 27th of last month. His Excellency saw the forts at Keelung and Hobe, the torpedo stations, and afterwards visited the different camps. He was exceedingly well pleased with all he saw, and distributed \$50 among the soldiery at each camp as a reward for the efficiency they displayed in their drill.

A BEAUTY show is being held at the Ryounkaku tower, Asakusa Park, Tokyo. The photographs of 100 Tokyo girls selected for this beauty are exhibited, the photos being displayed in frames 3 ft. in height and 2 feet in width. As the prize-winners are to be divided into five classes, each visitor is entitled to give five votes, classing his votes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and every vote counts as one. Yesterday being a general holiday in Tokio there were crowds upon crowds of visitors, and the number of votes recorded was enormous.

THE Tientsin correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* writes on the 15th inst.: "For some days we have had very hot, oppressive weather, with humid atmosphere. There has been a good deal of rain at intervals, but not much has fallen at this place. From Kalgan the report comes that no rain had fallen up to the beginning of this month, and that it had been so dry that no planting of autumn crops had been taken place. Probably this is true of the greater part of the province. Rain has fallen over most of the plain. There has been a slight rise in the river. There is slight apprehension of a flood, or even of very high water this year. Steamers sail up to the head of the river. Every thing is perfectly quiet, and the relations between the Chinese and foreigners appear to be satisfactory."

The summer examinations held every year at the Naval School on the Qian Ming Lake near the Imperial Palace on the west side of Peking, took place on the 5th of the 5th moon, and were presided over by the Sub-Director of the Board of Admiralty, who has reported on the progress made by the students during the last year. In Western studies, he says, and especially in Western languages, the pupils were most satisfactory, but in their mother tongue they were not so good. Some of the scholars could not write Chinese characters, and the Chinese, which he considers a very bad sign of the degeneracy of the "times. Chinese, he says, for the youth of China should be the root of all education and be strongly recommended that more attention be paid to it than seems to have been given it during the past year.

The following are the statistics at date compared with the corresponding circles of last season:

	1891.	1890.
Imports	1,023,999	993,600
Exports	1,023,999	993,600
Shipments to Shanghai	16,524	14,500
Shipments from Shanghai	64,441	65,000
Arrivals	604,943	592,800
Departures	604,943	592,800
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The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular last year is as under:

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Amoy is certainly an ambitious task for Japan to undertake. According to the native papers, however, her ambition is equal to the undertaking, and within the next few days an official announcement may be looked for announcing the accession of three volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean to the Japanese Empire. The islands are said to lie 3 degrees to the south of the Loo-Choo Islands, and have been thoroughly explored by a Mr. Yoto-Tosaku, who devoted ten years to the exploration of the Pacific groups. The islands are said to be well adapted for Japanese settlement.

The *Japan Gazette* gives the following translation from a Japanese paper: "There are at present 10 men-of-war in Yokohama representing the English, American, Portuguese, and Chinese nationalities. The sailors belonging to these vessels are in the ordinary Chinese of the port by the somewhat superior material and make of their garments, although they certainly exhibit greater dignity of carriage. The sailors are generally well dressed, and of them have a navy-like smartness. As they spend but little money, they are not popular at the public houses, and before they enter any drinking establishment they look in enquiringly at the other sailors there, and if not they enter, but if there are other nationalities there already, they go away, which is very ridiculous. The Japanese sailors are very strong, and are very proud. They indulge in a national sort of spending money, but their proud manner of doing so makes everyone furious. As the American flag-ship *Monaghan* has been lying in the harbor for some time, the sailors are the most respected to the manners and customs of this country, and when they meet our sailors about the town, they always come in a friendly way, and sometimes our sailors are quite as low as to respond to their hearty greetings. The Portuguese sailors are very like the Japanese in appearance, but unlike they have just received their pay they do not spend much money."

In connection with the visit of the Chinese Squadron to Japan, the *Mainichi* proceeds to compare the number and tonnage of the vessels of Japan and China, and the method of drill adopted by the two countries. In respect of the former it admits that China is far ahead of Japan, but says this country excels its neighbor in other things. Respecting the method of drill adopted by the two countries, our contemporary says: "The Chinese Navy has adopted the English system entirely. Admiral Lang, who was until recently the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Navy, is an Englishman, and the Chinese Navy is principally under his instruction. It is believed that since the Admiral's dismissal from the Navy China has lost the friendly relations of the English Navy, and that the Government will not in future have any more of its kind of officers to the Chinese. But as it is the custom of the Chinese Government to be indifferent as to the sum of money paid to Europeans in its service, English naval officers will probably have to go to the great length of going to the Chinese Government. The system of drilling at sea is in practice in the Japanese Navy is neither English, French nor German, say the naval officers, but is Japanese, based on the best of the three. Speaking on this subject, a certain gentleman remarked: "As the Japanese change the system of their naval drill so very often—abandoning the English system this year, the French system the next, and so on, efficiency is not improved in proportion to the amount of pains taken in the drill. The Chinese Navy is more experienced, having studied only one system all along, without any change of system. Comparing the system of the officers with those of the Japanese Navy, our contemporary says that Admiral Ting is about 55 or 56 years old, but the other officers are in general younger than those in the Japanese Navy, and that the Japanese Navy has had more of its officers than the Chinese. The latter, however, are not to be looked upon with disrespect, as the *Mainichi*, having all graduated in Europe, are, as a body, like the Japanese, and speaking English more fluently than the Japanese officers."

KOREA AGAIN.—Korea is a fertile field for missions. In the great majority of cases they turn out to be entirely groundless, but they still continue to be repeated with unabated assurance and insistence. A correspondent of the *Yokohama Specimen* writes on the 15th inst.: "In my last letter, I referred to a rumor that an foreigner was on foot to conclude a secret treaty with Russia so as to bring Korea under the latter's sway, and that an ambassador was to be sent to St. Petersburg for the purpose. I now learn that the intrigue was organized by the Ming family, and that the ambassador selected by them was one Bok Seishaku, an intimate friend of Ming Chokai. But seven days after the King's starting on his mission, Ming Chokai among these reasons is the fact that if news of the affair reached China, very troublesome results might ensue, and that the Queen and many influential members of the court would be alarmed. He is now, to urge the King to give his sanction to the project, the King has refrained from signing Bok's appointment. The Ming family, however, are very anxious to prosecute the design and have determined, I am told, to urge the King to give his sanction to the project. I have not succeeded in obtaining a copy of the secret treaty, but I understand that it contains a clause placing Korea under Russian protection. In a memorial addressed by one of the Ministers of State some time ago to the King, this was once again urged. Europeans are honest and faithful, but the Chinese are stupid and slow, and the Japanese crafty and unscrupulous. Japan preserves an amiable attitude towards us externally, but we must not become too intimate with her. This sentence gives a clue to the views of the Ming family, and indicates their desire to place themselves under the Russian eagle. But unfortunately for them their secret was discovered, and the representative of the Foreign Powers have reported the affair to their Governments. The intrigue owes its origin to the Russian Minister in this country, and prominent members of the Ming family—Ming Yenshan, Ming Yenshan, Ming Chokai, and Ming Yenshan—were promised large sums of money. Last year when a similar rumor was circulated, the Chinese Representative, Mr. Yuan, said that if the story proved correct, he should tie up the Prince Minister and the other conspirators and send them to China to be dealt with. What course he will adopt on this occasion, I hope to report by next mail. We republish this story as an indication of the suspicion that apparently exists, rather than because we place faith in its details."

On the 16th inst. the members of the Japanese Diet, and others, were entertained on board the Chinese flag-ship at Yokohama. About 200 guests were present, of whom about 150 were members of the Diet, and 50 were Japanese. The Japanese Diet members were seated in the forenoon, and the Chinese Diet members in the afternoon. The Japanese Diet members were seated in the forenoon, and the Chinese Diet members in the afternoon. The Japanese Diet members were seated in the forenoon, and the Chinese Diet members in the afternoon.

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A. G. GORDON & CO., LIMITED.

THE COMPANY TO BE WOUND UP.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders of this Company was held to-day for the purpose of passing a resolution for the voluntary winding up of the company. There were present: Messrs A. G. Gordon (Chairman), R. G. Shaw, W. J. Judd, H. J. Holmes, C. B. Rizzo, E. Dornier, Mak Yan and J. V. Jones (Secretary).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, this meeting is called for the purpose of voluntarily winding up the company, as it is impossible to procure more funds for the purpose of carrying on the business. In my report to the last general meeting I stated that if the concern was to continue, steps must be taken to procure more funds. Since that time I have endeavored in different ways to raise money, and my last effort was to issue a circular to shareholders and creditors, and call a private meeting to consider the question of carrying on the business. The result of that meeting was that it was impossible to continue. The result of that meeting was that it was impossible to continue. The result of that meeting was that it was impossible to continue.

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not affected by the numbers. B. is much more likely to obtain delivery from A. if the numbers are stated in the contract. This fact alone takes the transaction, as far as possible, out of the province of gambling.

The Honorable Member had better strike his colors; lower the black and ten, and abandon the kidnapping ship. Disease has come upon them and their day is done. The Colony will be a great success with the assistance of the Honorable Member, Charbonneau, or Praya Reclamations for many a year to come.—Yours.

INVESTOR.
[Plagiarist] is a good high-sounding word, but cannot, we think, be fairly applied to the representative of a public body for expressing the views of those whom he represents in Council.—E. C. M.]

OFF IN THE STILL NIGHT.

Dear Captain Smith, you're leaving in the early light of day. And when you again return, to this Gibraltar of the East. I pray spare the restless sleepers. As they sleep and open their pores, the sweat of the lava and unceasingly.

Serch of the street.
90° IN THE SHADE.
July 28.

CHINESE PATIENTS AT THE PEKING HOSPITAL.

Dr. E. J. Fritchard's report on the last year's working of the Peking Hospital, in connection with the London Missionary Society, has just been issued. It contains the usual record of useful medical and evangelistic work, and a full account of the conditions under which the Chinese patients are treated. The report is a most interesting and valuable document, and is well worth a perusal by all who are interested in the work of the Peking Hospital.

The patient was one who had recently undergone amputation in his case, a little below the knee. When he arrived at the hospital he was in such a condition that he could not walk, and he was confined to his bed. He was treated by Dr. Fritchard, and he was discharged on the 10th inst. He was in a very good condition when he was discharged, and he was able to walk without any aid.

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of oil. Such results have convinced everybody in Poot that petroleum is the fuel of the future. A word as to the voyage of the *Victoria* may not be out of place. She covered the vast expanse of ocean between Tientsin and Shanghai in 80 days. On her north-westerly course at the commencement of the voyage she had the benefit of the trade wind, and then, striking the great equatorial current, she was swept across the Pacific in very quick time. The weather was experienced throughout, the voyage not being taken in for a single day.—N.-C. Daily News.

CHINKIANG.

Last Thursday we had another of the Turlinian processions. It was brought out this time, I am told, at the expense of the officials as a thank-offering for the abundant rain of the week before. But the procession this time proved a very tame affair, possibly either because of the shortness of the notice or the business of the season, or because even among the Chinese, fewer persons are found to give thanks for blessings received than to pray for the same.

The officials have at last, at the urgent request of four consuls, posted the Emperor's proclamation in regard to the riots. It seems to be having a good effect on the people. They dare not say of this as they did of the officials' that it was issued because of foreign money. Some robberies were committed the first part of this month in the Tientsin neighbourhood. A few days ago the runners brought in and discovered the robbers on a boat near Tientsin. In conjunction with several guards, an attack was made on the suspicious boat and fourteen arrests were made. As some foreign agents, great clothing, etc., were found

